

"Now, the entire fleet is lying in quiet inlets. More accurately, almost the entire fleet... We had to leave 25 vessels in Igarka for the winter that have no means of self-propulsion. Why? The answer to that question is easy. When the last convoy left, these barges had simply not been unloaded. During the final days of the navigation season our partners - the timber export workers and longshoremen of the Igarka Timber Trans-Shipping Combine - did an especially poor job of it. At times only 10 or 12 people of the 120 showed up for work at the port."

Q. "How will this affect the opening of the new season? Besides these 25 barges there are another 7 still in Dudinka, aren't there?"

A. "First of all, there will be additional expenses for their scheduled maintenance, which will now have to be done there. And to do this we'll have to have the necessary materials brought in by air to Igarka and Dudinka. But even then, it's very hard to talk about any kind of high-quality maintenance.

"Secondly, we could have sent this fleet out into the lower reaches of the river and its tributaries immediately at the beginning of the navigation season. Now, we'll be waiting for it to follow an icebreaker back to Krasnoyarsk. Again, this means more expenses and loss of time."

Q. "And is someone compensating your financial losses?"

A. "Not entirely, I'm afraid. We present our claims to the timber export people in the form of fines and payment of ship leasing costs. But these "revenues" can't begin to match what we could have made from shipping.

"In all, only 25,557,000 tonnes of the planned 27,500,000 tonnes of freight were transported. Angara loggers were short approximately 640,000 tonnes of timber in their deliveries. Approximately 100,000 tonnes of freight for northerners simply never reached Krasnoyarsk from various enterprises. Just as happened in Dudinka, we failed to receive around 40,000 tonnes of metal goods from the Norilsk Mining and Metallurgical Combine. They were delivered to our colleagues, the sailors.